

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY'S MIDEAST TOUR AND HIS TALKS WITH GROMYKO GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE. SADAT'S ABC INTERVIEW FEATURED PROMINENTLY ALTHOUGH WITH LIMITED COMMENT. LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR QUOTED "INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" SAYING, "GROMYKO WILL PROPOSE TO KISSINGER THAT SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT TALKS TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA UNDER JOINT SOVIET-AMERICAN CHAIRMANSHIP." PAPER SAID THERE IS SYRIAN-SOVIET COORDINATION REGARDING THIS MATTER, REACHED DURING RECENT VISIT OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT TO MOSCOW AND QUOTES SAME SOURCES SAYING, "DIR. KISSINGER DOES NOT OBJECT 'IN PRINCIPLE' TO HOLDING THESE TALKS IN GENEVA." SEVERAL PAPERS COMMENT EDITORIALY ON BEGINNING KISSINGER MIDEAST TOUR. END SUMMARY.

2. AN NAHAR SAID OF KISSINGER-GROMYKO TALKS: "KISSINGER UNDOUBTEDLY WANTS FROM HIS COUNTERPART ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO OBSTRUCTION, THROUGH SYRIA, PREVENTING A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BEFORE JUNE 1 RECONSIDERATION OF OIL EMBARGO ISSUE... WHAT GROMYKO WANTS FROM HIS COUNTERPART

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IS ASSURANCE THAT USSR WILL NOT PAY, PARTICULARLY IN EGYPT,

PRICE OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, AND THAT U.S. WILL NOT UNDERMINE USSR-SYRIAN RELATIONS. EVICTION OF USSR FROM ARAB AREA MIGHT PLACE BREZHNEV IN A DOMESTIC SITUATION NO LESS SERIOUS THAN NIXON'S.

3. PRO-COMMANDO AL MUHARRIR: "ALTHOUGH SOME DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HAVE INDICATED DR. KISSINGER WOULD NOT HAVE STARTED NEW MOVES IF THERE WERE NO POSITIVE FACTORS DEVELOPING, SITUATION SEEMS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT... WHAT IS NEEDED IS ISRAELI PLEDGE FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES ACCORDING TO TIMETABLE, AND PLEDGE TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN MANNER ENSURING THEIR REPATRIATION. CAN KISSINGER GIVE THESE TWO PLEDGES? AS TO DISENGAGEMENT ON SYRIAN FRONT, IT IS ONLY, AS SYRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS FREQUENTLY DECLARED, FIRST OF MANY STEPS TO ENSURE JUST SETTLEMENT."

4. PRO-SYRIA ASH SHARQ: "DIR. KISSINGER NEED NOT COME AND GO TO BARGAIN OR OBTAIN CONCESSIONS. RATHER, HE NEED ONLY IMPLEMENT WHAT U.S. AND USSR HAVE PROMISED TO ACHIEVE. IF HE SEES ANY PROCRASTINATION, LYING OR CHEATING HE SHOULD GO TO USSR AND TO SECURITY COUNCIL...TO DEMAND ONE OF TWO THINGS: EITHER FREE HAND FOR HIS COUNTRY AND USSR IN IMPLEMENTING SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN WAYS THEY DEEM NECESSARY, OR PROCLAMATION ARAB RIGHT TO ARMED STRUGGLE TO IMPLEMENT THESE RESOLUTIONS. FOR KISSINGER TO MAKE STATEMENT BEFORE STARTING HIS TOUR EXPRESSING HIS PESSIMISM REGARDING RESULTS...IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE."

5. INDEPENDENT AL BAYRAQ: "IN HIS STATEMENT TO U.S. TELEVISION, PRESIDENT SADAT WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN U.S. SECRETARY... UNDOUBTEDLY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT HAS SUFFICIENT REASONS TO BE OPTIMISTIC... BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT SHOULD NOT BE FOREGOTTEN. IT IS BRAVERY OF SYRIAN FORCES IN GOLAN AND MT. HERMON AND THEIR SUCCESS IN RESTRAINING ISRAEL'S MILITARY DESIGNS THAT WILL FACILITATE KISSINGER'S MISSION IN 'CONVINCING' ISRAELIS TO OFFER MORE CONCESSIONS." GODLEY

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